

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ANKARA 001802

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

FM Gul: Anti-US Syndrome in Turkey is Exaggerated - Hurriyet
Bush Administration Declares Itself Champion of Human Rights
- Milliyet
Future with Armenians May Prove to Be 'Hopeful': Poll -
Milliyet
Turkish Detainee's Mother Urges for Release of Son from
Guantanamo - Sabah
Knesset Approves Withdrawal Plan from Gaza, West Bank -
Sabah
Cost of Looting in Bishkek \$100 Million - Milliyet
Nightmare Hits Indian Ocean Again with 8.7 Earthquake -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

US Waiting for Nine Months for a Response on Incirlik
Airbase - Cumhuriyet
Kurdish Leaders Want a Significant Share from Iraqi Oil -
Zaman
Kurds, Shiites Agree to Tie Kirkuk to Baghdad - Yeni Safak
Iraqi Interior Minister: Zarkawi Surrounded - Zaman
Wolfowitz: World Bank Goals Will Spread Freedom, Democracy -
Yeni Safak
Armenia Attempts to Sell Missiles to Al-Qaeda - Yeni Safak
Syria Withdraws 2,000 More Troops From Lebanon - Cumhuriyet
Egyptian Opposition Says 'Enough' to Mubarak - Radikal

BRIEFING

FM Gul on Turkey/US, Incirlik, Anti-Semitism: Foreign
Minister Abdullah Gul told "Hurriyet" that there is no
enmity toward the United States in Turkey, adding that
reactions against the US have been much stronger in some
other European countries. Ongoing exaggerations in the
country have created a psychological atmosphere, Gul said,
and noted: 'The two countries have mutual expectations, but
we can settle them through dialogue.' On Incirlik, Gul said
the Turkish government would announce necessary decisions on
US requests for using the airbase for logistical support
operations. No parliamentary decision is needed for such an
approval, Gul stressed. Responding to a question, Gul said
Turks should not be drawn into the 'storm' of nationalism
and noted that the high sales of Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf"
are an artificial development caused by chauvinists. 'There
is no anti-Semitism in Turkey,' Gul stressed, adding that
Turkey is a place where churches and synagogues are built
near mosques.

PM Erdogan Plans 'Double' Visit to US: Turkish Prime
Minster Tayyip Erdogan will clarify the details of his June
5-7 visit to the United States after hearing from the White
House a date about a possible meeting with President Bush,
says "Yeni Safak." Erdogan will again visit US in September
to lobby on Cyprus at the UN General Assembly meetings.
Erdogan may meet with President Bush again during this
second visit, according to the paper. The paper expects the
AKP government to send an official response to Washington in
April regarding the use of Incirlik Airbase for logistical
purposes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has drafted a
decree on the issue, in which the use of Incirlik for
logistical operations is restricted to Iraq and Afghanistan,
writes "Yeni Safak."
US Declares Itself Champion of Human Rights: The Bush
Administration has given itself high marks for the US
contribution to the improvement of human rights and
democracy in the world, says "Milliyet," referring to the US
State Department report on 'Supporting Human Rights and
Democracy: The US Record 2004-2005.' The paper says the
report outlined U.S. activities with regard to human rights
and democracy around the world, but did not mention those

who have died under torture by American forces in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan. The report claims the US has been effective in the expansion of religious freedom, prevention of torture, greater women's participation in political life and human trafficking in Turkey, says "Milliyet." The US has pressed the Turkish government at the highest level for the reopening of the Halki Seminary, acknowledgement of the 'Ecumenical' nature of the Patriarchate and ensuring the right of non-Turkish citizens to serve as clergy, "Milliyet" cites the US report.

Turkish Government Plays Down Soaring Sales of "Mein Kampf": Justice Minister and Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said Monday that there is no racism in Turkey, in response to a question on the soaring sales of Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf." "We have never had such an attitude in our culture and history, and we do not have it now," Cicek said at a press conference. "We cannot allow prejudice against people for belonging to a certain race," Cicek said: "Racism is a perversion of the mind." "Mein Kampf" has featured among the bestsellers in the past two months with some 200,000 copies of paperback translations sold.

US Still Waiting for a Turkish Decision on Incirlik: Left-leaning/opinion maker "Cumhuriyet" says that US has been waiting for nine months for a response from Ankara with regard to the use of Incirlik as a logistical cargo hub for operations in the region. On Monday, Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek signaled that the Turkish government will give a green light to the US demand, saying the issue may be discussed at the cabinet meeting next week, says "Cumhuriyet."

Lawyer Says Turkish Detainee Should Be Released From Guantanamo: The lawyer for Murat Kurnaz, the Turkish-German being held at Guantanamo Bay for alleged links to Al-Qaeda, said his client will be released if Turkish government intervenes, Turkish papers report. The US government has determined that Kurnaz is not linked to Al-Qaeda or the Taliban and that he did not pose a terrorist threat to the United States, said lawyer Bahar Azmi to VOA Turkish Service on Monday. Azmi noted that thus far no detainee has been released from Guantanamo without intercession by detainee's government with the US government.

Turkey to Initial Protocol with EU this Week to Include Cyprus: Ankara said on Monday it would initial the agreement extending its customs union with the European Union to new EU members, including Cyprus, through an exchange of letters this week. Despite Nicosia's claims, Ankara noted that the protocol covered only the free movement of goods, and not services such as shipping, signaling that Turkish airports and ports would remain closed to the Greek Cypriots. Both FM Abdullah Gul and government spokesman Cemil Cicek stressed that initialing the protocol would not signify Turkish recognition of the Greek Cypriot government. "Recognition can be possible only after we have lasting peace on Cyprus," Gul said. Gul added that the protocol may not go into effect until July because the Turkish and European parliaments would have to ratify the agreement.

Research in Turkey, Armenia Indicates Hope: Turkish papers continue reporting about the outcome of a public opinion poll conducted jointly by Turkey's Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and Armenia's Sociological and Marketing Research Center (HASA) in two countries. 50.9 percent of Turks and 62.7 percent of Armenians want the border crossing between the two countries to be opened. Both peoples want diplomatic ties to be established between Ankara and Yerevan, Turks with 64.6 percent and Armenians with 87.7 percent. 54 percent of Turks and 60.1 percent of Armenians want economic ties improved without waiting for a solution of historical and political problems. The psychological climate is ready for dialogue between Turkey and Armenia, but both sides believe in the need for establishing diplomatic relations first, according to the research.

Resignations from Ruling, Opposition Parties: On Monday, one lawmaker resigned from the ruling AK Party while five quit the main opposition CHP. AKP defector Mirac Akdogan said the ruling party is quickly losing the legitimacy it gained through the Turkish nation's votes. Resigned CHP lawmakers said they will join the Social Democratic Peoples Party (SHP), which will thus qualify for Treasury support for general elections. Distribution of seats in the parliament is as follows: AKP 360, CHP 163, DYP (True Path Party) 6, ANAP 5, HYP (People's Ascension Party) 1, and Independents 14. One seat is vacant.

Parliament to Discuss Changes to Penal Code: The Turkish parliament will discuss today proposals for changes to the new penal code. An AKP lawmaker said the government is open to the possibility of changing controversial clauses in the law regarding the media. Recent changes to the penal code

have drawn strong criticism from the domestic press and international media organizations for bringing heavy restrictions on freedom of speech and press.

PM Erdogan to Tunisia, Morocco: Accompanied by the ministers of trade and agriculture and by businessmen, PM Erdogan left for Tunisia and Morocco on Monday for a four-day visit.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Kyrgyzstan; US-Turkey Relations

"Is This Spring Time For Kyrgyzstan?"

Turgut Tarhanli wrote in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (3/29): "As Kyrgyzstan prepares for a new election process, it should take into account a recent report by the OSCE. The report was drafted after the February 27 elections, the root of the current situation, and highlighted irregularities and violations in the Kyrgyz electoral system. . Currently, anti-Akayev figures are debating over the future of the parliament. Naturally, fresh elections are pronounced to be an immediate solution. However, Kyrgyzstan will suffer even more instability unless the electoral system is revised before it is implemented. Kyrgyzstan happens to be a country to which every major international player pays utmost attention. Given the circumstances, it is now very important to watch how strong the transitional administration will be and if it will be able to embrace the whole country."

"Reform in Kyrgyzstan and Eurasia"

Hasan Celal Guzel observed in the conservative-sensational "DB Tercuman" (3/29): "The main problem in Kyrgyzstan is poverty and popular unrest. Kyrgyzstan is the poorest country in this area and the unhappiest with its government among all the Turkic Republics. Under these conditions, it was not possible for the Akayev administration to continue ruling any longer without the support of the US and the dollars of George Soros. It seems that the activities of the US, Russia and China played a major role in this revolt. While, for the time being, it looks like the pro-US opposition groups are leading the revolution, the picture is not yet clear. There is one fact, which is that the reform process in Eurasia is moving away from the Russian Federation and toward American interests."

"Incirlik Airbase Again"

Haluk Ulman wrote in the economic-politic "Dunya" (3/29): "Some might believe that opening up Incirlik airbase for extensive use by the US military is a useful way to bring new momentum to Turkish-American relations. However, the Bush administration obviously plans to use this base for more than humanitarian relief purposes. If Incirlik is made available for use by American forces, it will support current US policy toward the region, and that policy, as we know, is all about use of force. This means that Incirlik will be used for both logistical and strategic purposes. Apparently the US has not yet found a better or safer location than Incirlik for its possible actions against Syria and Iran. . Under these circumstances, granting permission for the use of Incirlik will bring us some serious consequences. Being dragged into a war is not in Turkey's interest. More important, the US will eventually leave the region and Turkey will have to cope with growing animosity on the part of neighboring countries. . Turkey is the country that has to stay and the US is the one that will leave. Turkey should be able to view the issues objectively and avoid creating new bad feelings as far as its relationship with the Islamic and Arab worlds is concerned."

EDELMAN